

Appl. No. 10/656,773
Filed: September 4, 2003
Atty Dkt. No. HM-81223
Rule 111 Amendment in
Response to 2/12/04 Office Action

Title: SPORTBOARD FIN
ATTACHMENT SYSTEM
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Art Unit 3617

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A sportboard assembly comprising:
 - a) a sportboard with a with bilateral tag engagement unit;
 - b) a tag fixed to a fin, said tag comprising:
 - i) a first side and an opposing second side; and
 - ii) a bilateral tag pin having a first end extending outwardly from said first side and a second end extending outwardly from said second side; said first end and said second end being simultaneously engaged to said bilateral tag engagement unit; and
 - c) said bilateral tag engagement unit having a first clamp for securing said first end, and a second clamp for securing said second end.
2. (original): The sportboard assembly according to claim 1 wherein the tag and the fin are integrally formed into a unitary member.
3. (original): The sportboard assembly according to claim 1 wherein the sportboard has a longitudinal axis, and said tag-pin extends about perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis.
4. (canceled)

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5. (currently amended): The sportboard assembly according to claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~ further comprising a first tightening means for controllably imparting a first force to said first clamp, and a second tightening means for controllably imparting a second force to said second clamp.

6. (original): The sportboard assembly according to claim 5 wherein said first clamp and said second clamp are connected to a respective first suspension members and second suspension member.

7. (original): The sportboard of claim 6 wherein said bilateral tag engagement unit includes a plug base from which extends a first end part and an opposing second end part, each of said first and second supporting members being connected to a respective first and second end part.

8. (original): The sportboard of claim 5 wherein said first clamp and said second clamp each comprises an upper clamp portion and a lower clamp portion which are each spaced-apart by a closed tag slot.

9. (original): The sportboard of claim 8 wherein said first and second tightening means interconnects said plug base with the upper clamp portion of respective first and second clamps.

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10. (currently amended): The sportboard assembly according to claim 1 [[4]] wherein said first clamp comprises an elongated upper clamp member and an elongated lower clamp member separated by a pin slot, said upper and lower clamp members having a plurality of opposing ridges and grooves for engaging said first end in a plurality of longitudinal positions.

11. (original): The sportboard assembly according to claim 6 wherein said bilateral tag engagement unit has a plug-base with first and second barrel guide holes respectively disposed beneath said first and second clamps, the sportboard further comprising:

a) a first T-nut having a first T-nut-base secured to a first threaded barrel, said first T-nut base disposed below the plug-base, and said first threaded barrel extending through said first barrel guide hole; and

b) a second T-nut having a second T-nut base secured to a second threaded barrel, said second T-nut base disposed below said plug base, and said second threaded barrel extending through said second barrel guide hole, wherein said first and second threaded shafts are threadably engaged with said first and second threaded barrel respectively.

12. (original): The improved sportboard according to claim 6 wherein said suspension members exert a continual force on said first clamp, resulting in a lock washer effect on an engagement between said first threaded shaft and said first threaded barrel.

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13. (original): The improved sportboard according to claim 10 further comprising a first securing member coupled to the first clamp and configured to releasably secure the first tag pin within a predetermined groove, such that when the first securing member is released, the first tag pin can be slidably adjusted to any groove within the first pin slot, and when the first securing member is secured, the first tag pin is secured in a predetermined groove within the first pin slot.

14. (original): The improved sportboard according to claim 13 further comprising a second securing member coupled to the second clamp and configured to releasably secure the second tag pin within a predetermined groove, such that when the second securing member is released, the second tag pin can be slidably adjusted within the second pin slot, and when the second securing member is secured, the second tag pin is secured in a predetermined groove within the second pin slot.

15. (original): The improved sportboard according to claim 14 wherein the first securing member and the second securing member include first and second cap screws.

16. (currently amended): The improved sportboard according to claim 1 [[4]] further comprising a center channel separating said first clamp from said second clamp, said center channel being of a length and width sufficient for insertion of said tag in said center channel, and wherein

a) said tag is tapered; and,

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b) surfaces of said first and second clamp that face the center channel are tapered to snugly receive said tapered tag.

17. (original): The improved sportboard according to claim 16 comprising at least one pin slot intersecting said center channel, said pin slot being sufficient size to allow passage of said tag-pin.

18. (currently amended): The improved sportboard according to claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~ wherein the tag engagement member includes a bilateral plug and a bilateral socket having a cavity into which the bilateral plug is fitted, and wherein the bilateral plug is a single contiguous member including said first clamp and said second clamp.

19. (currently amended): A method of releasably securing a fin with a tag to a sport board with a tag engagement member having a first flexible clamp with a first pin slot and a second flexible clamp with a second pin slot, the tag engagement member including having a center slot in communication with said first and second pin slots, said tag having a first side from which extends a tag-pin first end, a second side from which extends a tag-pin second end, ~~a bore extending through said tag from said first side to said second side, and a tag-pin with first and second ends~~, the method comprising the steps:

~~a) inserting said first end of said tag-pin through said bore such that said first end extends beyond said first side and said second end extends beyond said second side;~~

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a) ~~[[b]] moving inserting said tag through into said center slot until said first and second ends enter into a respective first and second pin slot; of said tag engagement member; and;~~

b) ~~[[c]] moving said tag laterally until said first and second ends are at a selected position in a respective first and second pin slot; and~~

c) securing said first and second ends of said tag-pin within said tag engagement member by flexing said first and second clamps against each respective corresponding first and second end.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended): The method according to claim 19 ~~[[23]]~~ wherein said tag engagement member has a base and ~~first and second clamps respectively comprising first and second elongated pin slots;~~ said first clamp ~~is~~ being coupled to a first cap screw threadably engaged with a first T-nut, and said second clamp ~~is~~ being coupled to a second cap screw threadably engaged with a second T-nut, said first and second T-nuts being coupled to said base, the step of flexing securing said first and second clamps comprising ends of said tag-pin within said tag engagement member including the steps of:

~~a) sliding said first end of said tag-pin to a first select location within said first pin slot;~~

~~b) sliding said second end of said tag-pin to a second select location within said second pin slot;~~

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- a) ~~[[c]]~~ tightening said first cap screw into said first T-nut; and,
 - b) ~~[[d]]~~ tightening said second cap screw into said second T-nut.

22. (currently amended): The method according to claim 21 ~~[[24]]~~ wherein the selected position ~~first select location within said first pin slot~~ is defined by a groove abutted by ridges.

23. (currently amended): The method according to claim 19 ~~[[22]]~~ wherein the fin sportboard and the tag are comprised of a single contiguous member.

24. (new): The method according to claim 21 wherein each one of said first and second clamps have a respective first and second upper clamp portion, said first and second cap screws being in engagement with a respective first and second upper clamp portion.